News

Delivering blending learning CIG: Lightning Talk event, 3 February

SCONUL's delivering blended learning community of interest group will be running a Lightning Talks event on Thursday 3 February, 10:30-12:00pm. These Lightning Talks will provide an opportunity to listen to and to share our recent experiences of blended learning. Speakers will talk about different approaches to blended learning as well as reflecting on the use of specific tools and techniques within the blended learning environment. For further details and to register click here.

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions' Forum, 11 February

SCONUL is pleased to announce that the next Small and Specialist Institutions' Forum will be held on Friday 11 February from 14.00 to 15.30. The Forum provides an opportunity to share knowledge and experience and is open to all those leading SCONUL member institutions who define themselves as specialist or small and their senior teams plus invited guests. It meets three times a year. For members who are planning to attend and have particular topics they would like this meeting to address please do e-mail Robin Armstrong Viner (Robin.Armstrong-Viner@courtauld.ac.uk) with any recommendations. For details on how to register e-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk

Libraries after Lockdown: Alternative Approaches to Discovery, 22 March

This next event in the Libraries after Lockdown project will be held on Tuesday 22 March 15.00 – 16.30. Libraries are now as much about connecting their users with content as they are about curating it. In this session we shall hear from Martine Pronk, Head of Academic Services, University of Utrecht about the innovative approach to discovery taken at their library, a Library which does not promote a traditional library catalogue or discovery layer. The session will also hear from Andrea Chiarelli, Senior Consultant, Research Consulting about the wider discovery landscape, in particular in relation to user workflows and the open access information ecosystem. The Libraries after Lockdown programmes are open to all staff at SCONUL member institutions. You can find out more and register here.

Library data and the pandemic

The SCONUL Technology and Markets Strategy Group is planning an event looking at developments in learning analytics following the pandemic. This is part of the Libraries after Lockdown programme and will take place in the summer. To inform this work, SCONUL is asking colleagues to fill in a very short survey which you can find here: https://forms.gle/Hhz9VuJU89yE1cUb9. The closing date for the survey is Friday18 February.

Welcoming the University of Cambridge to SCONUL Access

This month SCONUL welcomed the University of Cambridge to the SCONUL Access Scheme. Undergraduate students (Band R) will have access to an incredible wealth of resources that range from a 4,200 year old Sumerian clay tablet to women's suffrage posters and millions of e-resources. A list of the participating libraries which will be available can be found here.

SCONUL and partner organisations raise concerns about Pearson price increase

SCONUL, RLUK, Jisc and our partner organisations have written to publishers Pearson, asking them to take urgent and immediate action to reconsider and reverse their recently - announced price increases to e-textbook titles. Read more

Health sector shares concerns over ebooks provision

Members of our Health & Social Care Knowledge have endorsed the calls to action in the SCONUL Statement on Access to e-books and e-textbooks issued by SCONUL, CILIP and other key groups, especially the calls for fair and transparent pricing. They have also outlined their specific concerns on current e-book provision from a health and care perspective. Read more

NSS Student Survey changes

The Office for Students has published proposed new questions for the National Student Survey for 2023. Question 19 which is specifically on library resources is turning into a more generic learning resources question. SCONUL has contacted the NSS team to ask for a conversation about the rationale (and supporting evidence base) for this change. We will share intelligence with the community following this conversation.

New Year Honours

Congratulations to Jo Norry, Director of Library and Student Services at Leeds Beckett University and a former SCONUL Executive Board member, who has been awarded an MBE for services to higher education and social inclusion in the New Year honours. Read more

COUNTER appoints new Project Director

The COUNTER Board has announced the appointment of Tasha Mellins-Cohen as the new Project Director who will start the new role in April. Lorraine Estelle who has been COUNTER Project Director since 2015 will be retiring in April. Read more

Narrative Expansions: Interpreting 'decolonisation' in academic libraries

What does it mean to 'decolonise' a library? Jess Crilly, former Associate Director for Content and Discovery at University of the Arts London libraries and Regina Everitt, ACOO (Service Excellence) and Director of Library, Archives and Learning Services (LALS), have edited a collection of writings that explore how institutions are interpreting this contested term and how the movement is playing out in academic libraries internationally. *Narrative Expansions: Interpreting Decolonisation in Academic Libraries* examines how colonial impacts have shaped knowledge production, how these impacts manifest in academic libraries, and how institutions are responding to these impacts. It is available here: https://www.facetpublishing.co.uk/page/detail/narrative-expansions/?K=9781783304974.

Libraries after Lockdown recordings

Recordings of all previous Libraries after Lockdown events are available to view on the events platform. If you were unable to attend or to stay online or simply want to re-visit the various discussions, login to the event site with your existing credentials. You will also find materials referenced, including transcripts of the event chat with your comments and questions on the event page under 'resources'.

Available recordings:

From Adaptive Practice to Service Redesign

- Shared international perspectives on libraries' responses to the pandemic, 29 March
- The campus experience post Covid: what does this mean for library spaces?, 5 July
- Small and specialist institutions post-pandemic, 15 July
- Blended Learning and the Shape and Design of Library Services, 29 September

The Dynamic Workforce

- The library workforce post-pandemic: exchange of experience, 12 July
- Developing a resilient and agile workforce, 26 November

Embracing Disruption

- ILL and its strategic uses for academic and research libraries, 16 July

The Libraries after Lockdown programmes are open to all staff at SCONUL member institutions. You can find out more and register here.

Updates from our peer organisations:

1. Academic Libraries North https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/
2. CONUL https://conul.ie/news/
3. LIBER https://libereurope.eu/news/
4. M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries https://www.m25lib.ac.uk/about-the-consortium/newsletter-archive/
5. Mercian Collaboration https://merciancollaboration.org.uk/news

6. RLUK https://www.rluk.ac.uk/rluk-bulletin/
7. SCURL https://www.scurl.ac.uk/news
8. ucisa https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/News-and-Views
9. WHELF https://whelf.ac.uk/

Appointments and job opportunities

If you have moved to a new role or institution or have any senior job opportunities that you would like us to include, please e-mail SitMui.Ng@sconul.ac.uk.

Appointment: University College Dublin
Dr Sandra Collins, the current Director of the National Library of Ireland, has been appointed to the role of University Librarian at University College Dublin, and will take up the role on 21 March. Read more

Vacancy: University Librarian, Cranfield University
Cranfield University are recruiting for a University Librarian. The University Librarian has responsibility for library services, learning resources and integrated study skills enhancement services and both pre and in-sessional English Language teaching along with the University Archive. The Library Service consists of four service points, the Kings Norton Library and Management Information Resource Centre on the Cranfield campus, the Barrington Library on the Shrivenham campus and the Bouverie House Library in Central Milton Keynes. **Closing date 28 January** Read more

Vacancy: Associate Director: Head of Libraries, Swansea University
Swansea University is seeking a Head of Libraries. Working with the Library Executive Team, the post holder will be responsible for University Libraries and all of its service delivery including subject and content services, archives, special collections, museum and research support. The Head of Libraries will be responsible for working with the Director of Academic Services and stakeholders across the University to produce a vision and strategy for the development of University library services. The post holder has a cross-institutional responsibility for the development and continuous improvement of a customer-facing ethos across teams which support the student and user experience, and for student study spaces. **Closing date 31 January** Read more

Vacancy: Archives and Records Officer, University of Wales Trinity Saint David
University of Wales Trinity Saint David are looking for an Archives & Records Officer. The post holder will help create an effective culture of good archives and records management across the University, providing leadership in this specialist field. Managing, planning and supervising all archives and records operations, they will analyse the current condition of archives and records and determine appropriate preservation priorities. **Closing date 31 January** Read more

Vacancy: Customer Services Librarian, University of Wales Trinity Saint David
University of Wales Trinity Saint David are looking for a Customer Service Librarian. The post holder will take responsibility for the day-to-day operation of front-line lending services. Managing library staff, they will ensure that all library services are co-ordinated across the multiple university sites. **Closing date 31 January** Read more

Vacancy: Study Adviser, University of Reading
University of Reading are seeking a Study Adviser to provide academic advice and support to students. The post holder will deliver workshops on study skills including academic writing, time management etc. to both mixed and specific subject groups of students; provide one to one study advice to undergraduate and taught postgraduate students on an appointment basis; and develop learning and teaching resources, including video tutorials and online guides. This is a full-time fixed term post for two years. **Closing date 31 January** Read more

Vacancy: Senior Project Manager (Knowledge and Information Management), Open Universitty
Open University are looking for a Senior Project Manager to help lead a university-wide change in how they approach their knowledge and information management. The role is part of the Foundations corporate change programme. This is a new role within an established programme team working closely

with the Programme Manager, core programme team and partners. **Closing date 31 January** Read more

Vacancy: Digital Services and Partnerships Librarian, University of East London

University of East London are recruiting for a Digital Services and Partnerships Librarian within Library, Archives and Learning Services. Based in the Content and Digital Environments team the post holder will administer online resource licences and subscription agreements for our national and international collaborative partnerships as well as taking responsibility for the daily operations and administration of the library management system and other library systems such as the Reading List Managements system. The post holder will also assist with the development and delivery of inductions and information skills training for staff and students at partner institutions. **Closing date 4 February** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Cultural Services, Royal Holloway, University of London

Royal Holloway, University of London are seeking to appoint a Head of Cultural Services. This role is responsible for leading and managing the division's Cultural Services, translating the University's strategy under the guidance of the Director of Library, Learning Support & Culture, and the Arts and Culture Management Committee. The post holder will directly curate the University's nationally significant art collection in line with Spectrum standards and the expectations of Arts Council Accreditation (pending), and will also be responsible for delivering the College's temporary exhibitions programme, supported operationally in both these aspects by an Arts Collection Officer. The role also involves oversight of the Archives and Special Collections service managed by the Archivist and Special Collections Curator. **Closing date 13 February** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Digital Systems, University College Cork

UCC wishes to appoint an experienced administrator to the role of Head of Digital Systems. Reporting to the Director of Library Services, the Head of Digital Systems - Library will lead a team of library and technology specialists in developing UCC Library's digital library infrastructure, metadata services, discovery services, and digital asset management capacity. The post holder will oversee and further develop the following functions: library systems and support services; electronic resources; cataloguing & metadata. **Closing date 15 February** Read more

Vacancy: Associate Director for Customer Services, University of Nottingham

University of Nottingham Libraries is seeking a new Associate Director for Customer Services. This full-time position is offered on a fixed term or secondment basis until 31 July 2023. The Associate Director for Customer Services is responsible for the strategic vision, development and delivery of front line services. **Closing date 18 February** Read more

Vacancy: Library Technologies Manager, University of Southampton

University of Southampton are looking to appoint a Library Technologies Manager. The role will involve the day-to-day analysis, maintenance, integration, management and reporting on a range of library systems across multiple platforms. This key role will manage and develop the integrated library system and resource discovery systems in close collaboration with our iSolutions Directorate to ensure the provision of a high-quality inspirational experience to over 23,000 students and staff across all campuses. As part of the Library Services technologies team, the post holder will manage and support the current integrated library system and help develop and deploy a next-generation library services platform in the coming year. **Closing date 21 February** Read more

Vacancy: Head of Research Services, University College Cork

University College Cork wishes to appoint an experienced administrator to the role of Head of Research Services. Reporting to the Director of Library Services, the Head of Research Services - Library will lead the UCC Library Research Services team in developing and delivering a range of innovative services in support of robust, reproducible, and open research practices. This new portfolio is designed to meet the rapidly developing and increasingly complex needs of researchers operating in a digital research and scholarship environment. It is intricately connected to the University's strategic goals to strengthen UCC's research impact, and the role holder will directly support University-level initiatives in this area. The role holder will become the chief authority in the University on Open Science and by developing expertise in all aspects of OS will lead on the adoption of best practice in all research-related activity. **Closing date 24 February** Read more

Vacancy: Deputy Director of Library Services, Loughborough University

Loughborough University are currently advertising for a Deputy Director of Library Services. Reporting to the Director of Library Services & University Librarian and, working with four Service Leads as part of the Library Leadership Team, this role will play a key role in the strategic development of library services. The successful candidate will have leadership and management experience and the ability to collaborate, influence and lead change. **Closing date 27 February** Read more

SCONUL services

SCONUL Access

Well used across the UK, this scheme which allows so many library users to access study spaces, books and journals at other libraries within the scheme, is returning to its full strength! Our phased re-opening of the Access Scheme continues and we are delighted to have welcomed back so many members since November 2021. We understand how challenging managing the scheme can be in the current climate and sincerely appreciate everyone's commitment to maintaining its fundamental ethos of reciprocal access.

SCONUL Deputies and New Directors Groups

Knowledge and experience sharing is invaluable in such changing times and SCONUL Director's and Deputy Director's groups speak directly to this need. Self-sustaining informal networks of peers, they provide a forum for brainstorming and discussion of ideas, developments and problems. E-mail Liyana Pama, Member Engagement Manager liyana.pama@sconul.ac.uk if you are interested in joining a Director's or Deputies group.

SCONUL Mentoring scheme

Library leaders are being required to deliver across an ever increasing range of areas and these partnerships, intended to support emerging or newly-appointed leaders (experienced leaders may also apply), are an opportunity for guidance, professional and personal growth to help develop your leadership capacity. Find out more here

SCONUL Statistics

The SCONUL Statistics provide a detailed picture of the workings of a core university function, providing a benchmarking and strategic planning tool for library leaders and demonstrating trends and developments to the wider sector. You can find more information here and the next full annual return is published in July 2022. If your institution has yet to supply its data please note that the **deadline for inclusion in the 2022 annual statistics is Friday 28 January**.

SCONUL community of interest groups

SCONUL, supported by Jisc, have launched community of interest groups (CIGs) addressing key Libraries after Lockdown areas: Delivering blended learning (looking at libraries' role in supporting their institutions); Embracing disruption: emerging technologies and systems (looking at new technologies and innovative uses of existing technologies); and Organisational development (looking at roles, skills and the nature of our work post-Covid). Read more

Events

If you would like SCONUL to include any events that may be of interest to directors, please e-mail sconul@sconul.ac.uk.

Delivering blending learning CIG: Lightning Talk event, 3 February

FIL February Online Event, 9 February

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions' Forum, 11 February

Open Research Week 2022, 14-17 February

UKRI: Open Access Policy Update and Information Event, 24 February

Westminster HE Forum: Next steps for the Research Excellence Framework, 11 March

Libraries after Lockdown: Alternative Approaches to Discovery, 22 March

Westminster Media Forum: The future for intellectual property and copyright regulation in the UK, 8 April

LILAC 2022, 11-13 April, Manchester

2022 CONUL Annual Conference: Library. Now – Welcome to the future, 25-26 May, Limerick

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions' Forum, 16 June

SCONUL Small and Specialist Institutions' Forum, 13 October